Woman Barrister To Federal Court

Memphis World
6-8-45

ATLANTA, Ga.—(SNS)—Attorney R. Pruden Herndon, well-known civic and religious leader was admitted Monday to the federal district court for the northern division of Georgia presided over by Judge E. Marvin derwood. The motion nominating attorney Herndon to the practice in federal court was made by Attorney A. T. Walden.

Memphis, Tenn.

Attorney Herndon was admitted to the Georgia bar in January, 1942 and in the same year was admitted to the State Court of Appeals and the State Supreme Court.

She received her education at Atlanta University and took up law through correspondence and from a private tutor. She is the only Negro woman in the State to be admitted to the Georgia bar and is one of three women in the entire South in the active law practice, the other two states being South Carolina and Missouri.

Attorney Herndon is associated with Attorney A. T. Walden, and Attorney T. J. Henry. Since her admission to the bar she has handled a number of cases over the state extending as far North as Athens and South as far as Cuthbert. She is a member of the Beulah Baptist church.

6-8-45

Memphis World-Tenn.

EDWARD L. PATTERSON, JR.

PASSES BAR—When license were handed out to young lawyers in Springfield, Illinois, recently, Edward L. Patterson, Jr., graduate of Lincoln University School of Law in St. Louis Missouri was one of those in line. Patterson took the Illinois bar last March and passed the first time. He holds the Bachelor of Science Degree from Tuskegee Institute. Ttorney Patterson is the 10th out of 12 graduates from Lincoln University School of Law who have taken and successfully passed state bar examinations. Attorneys from Lincoln are practicing in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Missouri.

High Court OKs Woman Lawyer

Chicago Defender

WASHINGTON.—Mrs. Marjorie Lawson, well known barrister of Washington, has been admitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court.

Chicago, Ill.

The capable woman attorney received her notification of eligibility to appear as counsel before the nation's highest judicial branch on May 28. Mer husband, Belford V. Lawson, who is also a prominent Washington lawyer, made the motion for her admission.

Mrs. Lawson, assistant director of the Division of Review and Analysis with the Fair Employment Practices Committee, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and received the LLB degree from the Terrell Law school in the nation's capital.

6-9-45

She was admitted to practice before the District of Columbia Bar and the U. S. Court of Appeals in April, 1939 and is a member of the law firm of Lawson, McKenzie and Windsor here. Mrs. Lawson recently submitted the first report of the FEPC, scheduled for released soon. She is one of the most prominent members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and is active in its national program.

Mrs. Marjorie Lawson, prominent Washington attorney, is snapped by cameraman with her husband, Atty. Belford V. Lawson, on the steps of the U. S. Supreme Court building in the nation's capital after she had been admitted to practice before the highest tribunal last week. A member of the law firm of Lawson, McKenzie and Windsor, Mrs. Lawson is a graduate of the University of Michigan and holds the LL.B. degree from Washington's Terrell Law school. She was admitted to practice before the District of Columbia Bar and the U. S. Court of Appeals in 1939. She is at present the assistant director of the Division of Review and Analysis of the FEPC.

Lincoln university graduate licensed before Illinois bar.

Kansas City Call

SPRINGFIELD — Edward L. Patterson Jr., graduate of Lincoln University School of Law in St. Louis, passed the Illinois bar recently. He is the 10th of 12 graduates of the Lincoln school, set up to provide equal accomodations for Negroes in jim crow Missouri, to successfully pass state bar examinations. Lincoln lawyers now practice in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Missouri.

7-2-45

Tom Clark Stopped Law Group Jim Crow

Birmingham, Ala. Weekly Review

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The story of how the refusal of the Federal Bar Association to admit Negroes was overcome during the term of Tom C. Clark, now attorney general, as president was revealed last week.

Repeated applications to membership had been made over a period of three years by Louis Mellinger, an employe in the in the claims division of the office of the attorney general. Each time they were turned down by both the executive council and its admissions committee.

6-7-45

Clark learned of the matter and immediately interceded by having Mellinger file a new application. The admissions committee this time voted 2 to 1 to admit but this was not sufficient, and in the absence of a unanimous vote by this committee, a three-fourths vote by the higher executive council must be in favor.

When Clark put the vote before the council the three-fourths vote was acquired, thanks to the large number of proxies which he had in his pocket. The association is 25 years old, has 20 chapters throughout the country and has Negro members from Baltimore, St. Louis, Philadelphia and in Washington.

7-2-45

Admit First Negro Lawyer In 14 Yrs. To Louisiana Bar

Louisiana Weekly
New Orleans, La.
8-4-45

For the first time in 14 years a Negro lawyer, Louis Berry, was sworn in as a member of the Louisiana Bar, when on Wednesday morning all successful candidates were admitted to practice in the courts of Louisiana by the Supreme Court sitting at New Orleans. Mr. Berry, a graduate of N. O. University and of Howard University, Washington, D. C., is a native of Alexandria, Louisiana. He is a member of the law faculty of Howard University and also holds membership in the Missouri bar. Together with other successful applicants for admission to the bar, Mr. Berry was sworn in by Associate Justice Wynne Rogers of the Supreme Court. The ceremony was attended by many friends and well-wishers of the young attorney.

8-4-45

Sets Precedent

ATTY. RICHARD E. WESTBROOKS of Chicago last week became the first Negro to be elected to the board of trustees of the John Marshall Law School, Chicago. Atty. Westbrooks, a John Marshall alumnus, was elected to that office during a meeting of the board without dissent. The veteran lawyer, who has been practicing law for over 30 years, has successfully prosecuted numerous cases in the supreme and appellate courts of Illinois and the U. S. Supreme Court, and is resident counsel of the Republic of Liberia and a member of the board of trustees of the National Lawyer's Guild.

Boston Names First Negro As Law Clerk

Atlanta Daily World

12-14-45

BOSTON —(ANP) — Herbert O. Reid, 27 of Cambridge, Mass., has been named a law clerk of the Massachusetts Supreme court, the first Negro in state history to be so designated.

A native of Wilson, N. C., Reid was recently discharged from the army as a second lieutenant. He fought at Okinawa. He was an honor graduate of Howard university in 1940 and studied law at Harvard, being admitted to the state bar in October. At one time he was assistant trial judge advocate at the Tuskegee Air school and also was a labor department Attorney in Washington.

Chief Justice Fred T. Field said Reid has been "selected on his merits and on the basis of information we had in respect to him. "The supreme court employs several law clerks to aid justices in looking up data and preparing decisions.

12-14-45

Ala. Lawyer Attends State Bar Meeting

The Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Arthur D. Shores, prominent local lawyer, attended the annual Alabama State Bar Association meeting here at the Tutwiler Hotel.

Mr. Shores was the only colored lawyer at the business session, but did not attend the dinner meeting at which Tom C. Clark, U.S. attorney general, spoke.

12-22-45

Rights and Duties In A Democracy

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.
7-14-45

Contributions Of The Negro Lawyer (2)

By LUTHER P. JACKSON

ONE of the unfortunate consequences of the separation of the races in our country is the limited opportunity which is afforded white people to observe intelligence and ability in certain groups of Negro people. They cannot observe because they do not have the contact. If there is a highly trained minister in the community they know nothing about him, because he delivers his sermons to Negroes only.

DR. JACKSON

If there is a very competent teacher in town they don't know her, because she imparts her knowledge to Negroes only. And if there is a fluent speaker in the community they likewise don't know him, because his addresses are confined to Negroes only. So it goes with most Negro professionals, but there is one important exception.

If there is an able lawyer in the community everybody knows him, because he practices law not in a Negro court but in the court of all the people. Thankful we must be that in this one institution of Southern life, Negroes and whites can meet each other face to face. The churches are separate, the schools are separate and public meetings are separate, but the courts are mixed.

7-14-45

The Negro lawyer faces a mixed racial situation every step of the way. The court officials—the judge, clerk, sheriff, commonwealth attorney, and jury—are usually all white. The attorney opposing him is usually white, and in criminal cases he cross examines witnesses who are frequently white. He sits at the bar not to himself but is surrounded with the other court officials and parties to the trial.

* * * *

Then finally if he is handling a case involving white persons, he faces a court room filled with white spectators who sometimes come there just to hear him argue. A Negro teacher may teach for fifty years and not a white person may ever see her on the job, but the Negro lawyer faces white persons every day of each year, or whichever way he turns.

If this lawyer is a good lawyer he has an opportunity to work wonders in race relations in a community. If he is thoroughly trained, if he keeps studying, and, above all, if he has plenty backbone, he can do more toward breaking down the notion of racial inferiority than perhaps any other worker within the Negro race. Happily for this race, as I indicated in this column a week ago, a group of lawyers have come on the scene recently who know the law of a state or of the United States as well as any other lawyers now practicing.

Some of them are associated with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and it is for this organization that they are winning numerous cases. They are winning them and they are displaying a brand of ability before all the citizens which no other worker has the opportunity to display.

The lawyers of the NAACP are organized by states and constitute a group known as the legal staff. It is their business to come to the rescue of Negroes in the numerous instances of the miscarriage of justice in cases of crime, of inequality in provisions for the education of the races, of discrimination in travel on common carriers, and of discrimination in the exercise of the right of suffrage. Because there is some infraction of the constitutional rights of Negroes almost daily in one or more of these areas in every community of a state, the demand for the services of these attorneys is enormous. They are kept busy going from place to place.

* * * *

And wherever these lawyers go, they make a good impression. They change the attitudes of whites toward Negroes. Again and again they appear in courts where Negro lawyers have never appeared before. They come not as ordinary lawyers but as experts introducing new points of law—new "writs" such as the court in question has never entertained before.

7-14-45

Realizing that the statutory law of a state is frequently against them, they sidestep it by going back to the common law of England which is frequently with them. Or they may sidestep state law in favor of federal law—sidestep a state court where defeat faces them in favor of a federal court where victory greets them.

Here in Virginia one of the examples of the skill of our recent attorneys is afforded in the case of Silas Rogers. This young man (and to us an innocent man) has had a date of execution set three times, but each time he has been snatched from the jaws of death by our NAACP lawyers, our own sons of Virginia. In all probability they will yet bring him out of the death chamber at the penitentiary to the outside world a free man. Hundreds of similar cases might be cited for the country as a whole, yet I think I have said enough to establish the fact that we now have some lawyers who are mighty good lawyers, and that they are promoting the welfare of the race in a way such as no other Negro professionals can do.

Kentucky Lawyers Cancel Banquet Until Problem of 'Social Equality' Is Solved

The Courier-Journal & Louisville Times
9-28-45

LOUISVILLE. — (ANP) — A banquet for members of the Kentucky State bar has been cancelled pending solution of the social equality problem between white and Negro lawyers.

The delicate racial problem of public fraternization between white and Negro members of the state bar was thrown into the lap of each individual member last week by Edward A. Dodd, president of the mixed lawyers' organization.

See 23-10

He further asked the board of governors of the association to decide whether Negro attorneys may attend social functions of the association and requested S. A. Burnley, president of the Lincoln Bar association for Negroes, to submit its grievances to him in writing prior to the November meeting of the organization.

The entire matter was discussed at his office Saturday, Dodd revealed. Those present included both white and Negro lawyers "and also Negro citizens who are not lawyers", he said. Dodd told the group that "some members" of the board of bar commissioners had advised against holding the meeting as scheduled.

Dodd and Burnley were in constant touch with each other on the delicate problem. After Dodd contacted several white members, he informed Burnley that Negro members would be welcome to the business session in the afternoon but that their attendance at the banquet might cause "embarrassment" to both Negro and white members of the bar.

"If it is decided that social equality in the form of banqueting together by Negro and white members of the Kentucky State Bar association is a social right included in their legal right", Dodd stated, "then there will be an opportunity to inform both Negro and white members in advance of the proposed meeting on an equal social basis."

9-28-45

"The running of time will, I hope, solve the race problem but currently the Kentucky State Bar association cannot solve it.

He added that "the solution will take both time and cooperation." He also acknowledged a letter from Atty. Louis C. Taylor, who has practiced law here for about 30 years, in which here was included $3 for annual dues. Taylor complained about being told by Atty. Burnley that Negro lawyers "might attend this meeting, but to a limited degree".

The veteran Negro lawyer expressed his opinion that "all members who pay should likewise share the privileges". Membership in the bar association is required of practicing attorneys, Taylor pointed out to Dodd.

"I have always tried to deport myself as respectable and gentlemanly to the courts and my fellow members," Taylor's letter said.

Truman Names Negro To Customs Court

Courier
11-4-45 Detroit

Washington, Oct. 3 (AP)—President Truman has chosen Irvin C. Mollinson, Chicago Negro lawyer, for appointment to the U. S. Customs Court at New York.

Attorney General Clark announced the President's decision today as he left the White House with Mollinson, a native of Vicksburg, Miss., who received his education at the University of Chicago. Mollinson will fill the vacancy created by the death of the late Tom Walker, a brother of former Postmaster General Walker. Representative Johnson (D., Okla.), originally was appointed but refused the $10,000-a-year post.

Louisville Ky.

Irvin C. Mollison, First Negro Made Federal Judge, Takes Office

Globe & Independent
Nashville, Tenn.
Sept 28 '45 Chic-Ill.

NEW YORK—Irvin C. Mollison, Chicago attorney, until recently a stalwart Republican, became the first Negro to get an appointment as a Federal Judge in continental United States, on Saturday, November 3. On that day he was sworn in as Judge of the United States Customs Court by presiding Judge Webster J. Oliver, in ceremonies that lasted more than an hour, in the United States Customs Court Building at 201 Varick Street, in this city.

11-9-45

In the distinguished company witnessing the ceremonies were the two Negro congressmen, William L. Dawson of Illinois and Adam Clayton Powell of New York. Present also was Judge Louis Arthur Grimes of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia. Prayer for the ceremonies was given by Rev. Marshall Shepard, Recorder of Deeds of the District of Columbia.

After Judge Mollison took the oath of office a five-minute recess was taken for him to don his judicial robe. He was escorted to his seat by Judges Oliver, Charles D. Lawrence and William Eakwall and was assigned to a seat to the left of the presiding judge.

Then followed the flow of oratory with the speakers generally hailing the appointment of a Negro as a Federal Judge as a great step toward attaining democracy in the United States. The last of the speakers was John H. Sengstacke, editor of the Chicago Defender. Judge Mollison thanked President Truman, Attorney General Clarke and also the United States Senate, which had confirmed his appointment without a dissenting vote. Mr. Mollison gave President Truman a good boost in saying that He, Mollison, was a living example of the President's announced policy of justice and fairness to all people in the United States.

Plaindealer 11-23-45

Kansas City, Kansas

BRILLIANT

Atty. Sadie T. M. Alexander of Philadelphia, who is secretary of the National Bar association which is holding its annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, is one of the outstanding lawyers of the country. She expects this session of the National Bar association to be its best. (ANP)

CHICAGO BAR ASS'N ELECTS NEGRO TO MEMBERSHIP

Black Diamond Okla. City, Okla. 1-27-45

CHICAGO —(ANP)— Robert L. Taylor, election law expert, for many years attorney for the Cook County Board of Election commissioners, has been elected a member of the Chicago Bar Association, thus becoming its only Negro member. Last year quite a furore was created when four of the most prominent colored lawyers in Chicago made a formal application for membership, supported in their plea by a member of white lawyers, but were turned down.

1-27-45

Mr. Taylor, who is near retirement, announced that as a member he will now propose the nam s of State Rep. Charles Jenkins and Atty. Earl B. Dickerson for membership. These two were among those turned down last year.

Chicago Bar Ass'n Has Negro Member

Philadelphia Tribune 1-27-45 Pa.

CHICAGO—(ANP)— Robert L. Taylor, election law expert, for many years attorney for the Cook County Board of Election commissioners, has been elected a member of the Chicago Bar Association, thus becoming its only colored member.

Taylor, who is near retirement, announced that as a member he will now propose the names of State Rep. Chas. Jenkins and Atty. Earl B. Dickerson for membership. These two were among four turned down last year.

GAIUS C. BOLIN NAMED BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Pittsburgh Courier Pa.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y. — Atty. Gaius C. Bolin, father of Justice Jane Bolin of New York City, was elected president of the Duchess County Bar Association marking the first time in the history of the association that a Negro has held the position. The oath of office was administered here on Saturday morning at Surrogate's Court by the retiring president, City Judge Charles J. Corbally. 1945

Cleveland B[illegible] Backs Jackson For Judge

Savannah Ga. Tribune

Cleveland. (ANP)—Spurred by the endorsement of the Cleveland Bar association from a poll of its more than 2,000 lawyers and the editorial support of the Press and [illegible]e News, two of Cleveland's daily newspapers, the candidacy of former Municipal Judge Perry B. Jackson for election to a new six year term is taking on new significance. 11-1-45

Leroy Crayton, chairman of the non-partisan committee in charge of Jackson's campaign, declared that the committee is leaving no stone unturned in keeping before the public the outstanding record attained by Judge Jackson during his two-year tenure as judge of the municipal court. 11-1-45

This same program of intense effort to assure success in this campaign is being followed by the women's campaign committee headed up by Jane Hunter, executive secretary of the Phillis Wheatley association.

Leading clergymen throughout the city will make brief statements to their congregations at their services from now until election day, Nov. 6, according to Frank Bell, campaign manager.

Dickerson Admitted to Chicago Bar Society

The Afro American Baltimore, Md.

CHICAGO. (ANP)—Earl B. Dickerson, a leader in the long fight to have colored lawyers admitted to the Chicago Bar Association, was notified last week of his admission to membership. Other colored members admitted previously were Robert Taylor, election commissioner; and Henry R. Ferguson, president, colored bar association. 11-17-45

She Is to Be Admitted To Practice of Law Here

Mrs. Velena G. Ellis

New York Times

Mrs. Velena G. Ellis of 303 West 154th Street, a policewoman attached to the Juvenile Aid Bureau at the Thirtieth Precinct in Manhattan, will be admitted to the practice of law tomorrow in ceremonies before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Madison Avenue and Twenty-fifth Street, it was learned yesterday.

Mrs. Ellis will be fulfilling for herself an ambition held by her late father, Albert Glasgow, once secretary to the Solilcitor General of Trinidad, B. W. I., who came to New York with the aim of becoming a lawyer. Death blighted the hope. 11-25-45

Mrs. Ellis attended the St. John's University of Law at night while working, first, as an investigator in the Department of Welfare and, after 1941, in the Police Department. She passed the bar examinations last June. Her husband, William, is a motion-picture operator.

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

12-2-45

POLICEWOMAN BECOMES MEMBER OF NEW YORK BAR — NEW YORK — Mrs. Velena G. Ellis, 30-year-old policewoman was sworn in recently as a member of the New York Bar. Mrs. Ellis, one of the department's six Negro policemen, said she finally is fulfilling an ambition she has had since she was a little girl. She is pictured here being congratulated by Samuel J. Battle, Patrol Commissioner of New York City who was the city's first Negro policeman.-(INP)